

Amendment

In the Claims

1-35 (cancelled)

36. (new) A seed, for implantation into a subject, wherein the seed is a combination product comprising

a) a biocompatible carrier,

b) one or more therapeutic components,

c) an imaging, radiopaque, or other diagnostic marker, and

d) one or more means to maintain location or orientation of the seed selected from the group consisting of one or more biodegradable structures effective to prevent migration upon implantation of the seed into a target tissue, one or more biodegradable structures effective to maintain orientation in tissue upon implantation, and one or more compliant setal structures which impart adhesive properties upon implantation into a target tissue,

wherein the seed has a size and shape suitable for passing through the bore of a needle or catheter having an interior diameter of less than about 2.7 mm (10 gauge).

37. (new) The seed of claim 1 wherein the seed is shaped into a cylinder or rod having a diameter of between about 0.8 to 3 mm and a length of up to 40 mm.

38. (new) The seed of claim 1 wherein the biodegradable structures are comprised of polymeric substances.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

39. (new) The seed of claim 1 wherein the biodegradable structures are comprised of non-polymeric or inorganic substances.

40. (new) The seed of claim 1 wherein more than one seed is formed as a continuous chain or array of seeds.

41. (new) The seed of claim 40 wherein the chain or continuous array includes spacer material .

42. (new) The seed of claim 40 wherein one or more seeds are elongated into strands to form a continuous chain or array of seeds.

43. (new) The seed of claim 41 wherein the seeds and spacers in the chain or continuous array are indistinguishably linked.

44. (new) The seed of claim 41 wherein the spacers are made of a color, texture, diameter, hardness, or shape for identification and demarcation.

45. (new) The seed of claim 40 wherein the chain or continuous array comprises indiscrete seeds, is flaccid, rigid, flexible, spring-shaped, coiled, spiral-shaped, springy, bent, latticed, knotted interconnected, linked, or fused.

46. (new) The seed of claim 41 wherein spacers are located at varying distances from one another, separated by one, two, three, four, five or more seeds.

47. (new) The seed of claim 36 wherein the means to maintain location or orientation is selected from the group consisting of a ridge, bump, related structure, grapple shaped anchor, pop-up wing, cross-style stabilizer, bristle-like, ring-shaped, and alternative shaped structures.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

48. (new) The seed of claim 36 wherein the means to maintain location or orientation comprises a smart polymer or other substrate to achieve configuration modification at implantation.

49. (new) The seed of claim 36 wherein the biocompatible carrier is elastic .

50. (new) The seed of claim 36 wherein one or more of the therapeutic components is radioactive.

51. (new) The seed of claim 36 wherein one or more of the therapeutic components is non-radioactive.

52. (new) The seed of claim 36 wherein the imaging, radiopaque, or diagnostic marker is the biocompatible carrier.

53. (new) The seed of claim 36 further comprising a means of tracing the radioactive contents comprising the radioactive component.

54. (new) The seed of claim 53 wherein the tracer is fluorescent, luminescent, colored, pigmented, dyed, tagged, or quantum dots.

55. (new) The seed of claim 36 wherein one or more of the components comprises a biodegradable magnetic polymer suitable for heating in a magnetic field.